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JAMES A. MANN

c.1803 - c.1850

And Some of His Descendants

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Mann family.  
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cN281 James A. Mann, c. 1803-c.1850, and some of  
his descendants. Buchanan, Mich. 1959.  
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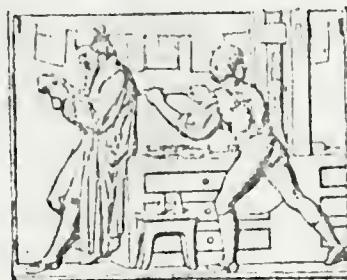
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JAMES A. MANN

c.1803 - c.1850

And Some of His Descendants

The purpose of this report is not an attempt to tell the complete story, but to place in the hands of Mann descendants some of the more important items of information I have gathered within the past ten years. No sources of the enclosed facts are given as that will be done in a later study which I eventually hope to complete. As nearly as possible I have tried to maintain accuracy with my data, and in the case of conflicting reports, have either not included the information, or have chosen the one which appeared to be correct. Any additions, corrections, or helpful suggestions will certainly be appreciated.

Keeping in mind that most of the people receiving this paper will be descendants of Martin Mann (1861-1939), it will perhaps be helpful to say that James A. Mann was the grandfather of Martin.

Wayne C. Mann  
305 Lake St.  
Buchanan, Michigan

December 10, 1959



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Perry M.C. Mann, son of James A. and Sarah (Magness) Mann, told during his lifetime that there were seven Mann brothers who came to America. Our family is descended from one of the seven. According to tradition, the name is English.

It is known that James A. Mann was born in Pennsylvania about 1803. Nothing further is known of his ancestry.

I am of the opinion that the father of James was Levi Mann, and that the following deed refers to his father: From the Register's Office, Greene County, Pennsylvania, Deed book 3, page 421.

January 29, 1811. Levi Mann of Franklin Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania, for \$50 sold to William Stewart of the same place, the following land containing fifty acres more or less: In Franklin Township, on Pursley Creek, adjoining Thomas Hoge and the said William Stewart on its north corner, thence along Stewart's line to a white oak, being a corner agreed on betwixt the parties hereto, thence north west along the agreed line to a stone heap and stake on an agreed line betwixt Abraham Devall and Isaac Mann to an old tree near Thomas Hoge's line, thence along said Hoge's line to the place of beginning.

Witness: James Clark

Signed: Levi Mann

Barnet Whitlatch

Isaac Mann

It is my belief that the Isaac Mann listed above is a brother to Levi.

From the 1793 tax list for Washington County, Pennsylvania. Living in Greene Township: Levi Mann and John Mann.

Living in Morgan Township: Isaac Mann and Abel Mann.

Greene and Morgan Townships became in 1796 part of the new Greene County, Pennsylvania. Perhaps these four are brothers.

I have a theory that Levi Mann moved about 1811 to southeastern Ohio or northern Kentucky. It is possible he may have lived both places.

From the tax records of Oxford Township, Butler County, Ohio, we learn the following: 1829 is the first list that can be located. There is no Levi Mann upon the list for that year. The 1830 list cannot be found.

On the list of persons for Oxford Township who own personal property, but no real estate, we find the name of Levi Mann listed for 1831, 1832, 1833, and 1834. His name is not found on the 1835 list.

Although there is no definite evidence that such is true, it is my belief that the Levi Mann of Greene County, Pennsylvania and the Levi Mann of Oxford Township are the same.

From the 1830 United States census for Oxford Township, Butler County, Ohio, we learn the following:

The family of Levi Mann residing here, composed of 1 male of 60 and under 70 years, 1 male of 20 and under 30, 1 male of under 5, 1 female of 50 and under 60, 1 female of 20 and under 30, and 1 female of 15 and under 20.

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Listed next to the name of Levi Mann is James Mann, whose family consisted of: 1 male of 20 and under 30 years, 1 male under 5, and 1 female of 20 and under 30.

I have little reason to doubt that this is James A. Mann, age 27, his wife, age 27, and their son Perry aged 1.

According to the custom of that time, the government census taker listed his families in the order in which he visited them. This means that Levi Mann and James Mann were close neighbors or perhaps even living in the same dwelling.

It must be remembered that the information I have written here and on the preceding page is speculation which needs to be confirmed.

The first definite evidence we have is that on September 27, 1825, James Mann was married to Sarah Magness in Jefferson County, Indiana, by Alexander Chambers, Justice of the Peace.

Sarah Magness was born in North Carolina, September 30, 1803, the daughter of Perry Green and Elizabeth (\_\_\_\_\_) Magness. Her family was living in Jefferson County at least as early as 1813 as her father signed a petition during that year.

Sometime before the birth of their son Perry, James Mann moved with his wife to Oxford Township, Butler County, Ohio.

Children of James A. and Sarah (Magness) Mann

1. Perry Magness Chambers Mann, born March 12, 1829 in Oxford Township, Butler County, Ohio.
2. Levi Mann, born February 22, 1831 in Oxford Township.
3. Delila or Delitah, born about 1833 in Indiana.

Sometime between the birth of the son Levi, and August 6, 1834, the Mann family came to South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana. It is upon their arrival in northern Indiana that we begin to uncover more numerous references to the family.

In the early records, the last name is oftentimes spelled with one n. I have encountered his first name as James A., James, Jas. A., Jas., J.A., and Jim. No document has been found bearing an original signature.

His wife Sarah often signed her name Sally. On all records that I have located where it was necessary for her to sign, her name is written with an X. The logical conclusion is that she could not read or write.

1834, August 6. He voted in an election held at South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana.

1834, October 29. Oliver Bennett and Eliza his wife of St.

Joseph County, Indiana, sold to James Mann of the same place for \$50, lots number 43, 44, & 45, in the Samuel Martin addition to the town of South Bend.

1834, November 24. Deed dated October 29, 1834 was recorded in the court house at South Bend. This means that sometime on or previous to that date James Mann or his representative had visited the court house and deposited this deed for recording.

1835, April 6. He voted in an election held in Portage Township, St. Joseph Co., Ind. Portage Township included the city of South Bend. In this election, the following votes were cast



for supervisor: James Mann, 47; Vincent Nash, 7; Nathan Rose, 4; James Palmer, 4; John Ruple, 16.

1835, October 3. At the first election held for the incorporation of South Bend, Indiana as a town, the following were elected trustees: William P. Howe, Horatio Chapin, Peter Johnson, John Massey, and James A. Mann.

1836, January 8. He and his wife of St. Joseph Co., Ind., sold to Robert Nickersham of the same place for \$200, the lots he had purchased October 29, 1834.

1836, January 8. Robert Nickersham of St. Joseph Co., Ind., sold to James A. Mann of the same place for \$150, the following land in the present Union Township, St. Joseph Co., Ind., containing 79 and 4/100 acres more or less: the west half of the south west fourth of section 19, town 36 north, range 3 east.

1836, January 9. Deed dated January 8, 1836 to James A. Mann was recorded in the court house at South Bend.

1836, April 16. He and his wife of St. Joseph Co., Ind., sold to Lowdy Stephenson of the same place for \$230, the land they purchased January 8, 1836. This was done before James P. Antrim, acting Justice of the Peace for St. Joseph Co., Ind.

The three lots that he bought in South Bend are at the south west corner of Main and Monroe Streets. At the time of this writing they are occupied by the Greyhound bus depot. It appears as though the difference between the purchase and the selling price might be accounted for by the building of a house.

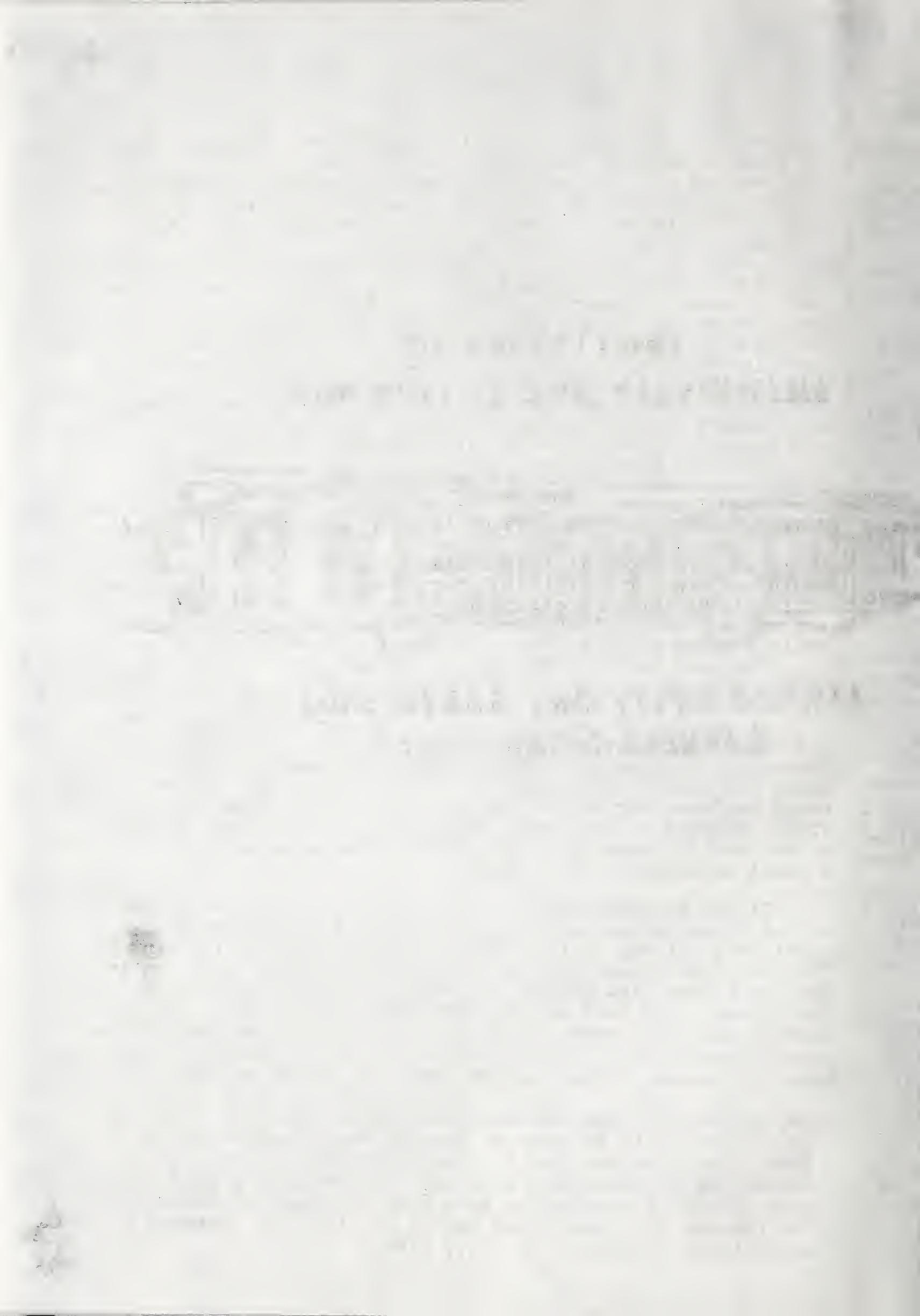
The farm in Union Township is several miles south of the city. Here again the difference between the purchase and the selling price may be due to a house being built.

It appears as though it was in the spring of 1836 that the Mann family moved to Berrien County, Michigan, settling a few miles south east of the present Three Oaks, Michigan. At about the same time, or perhaps with them came her father Perry Green Magness; her brother, William P.G.W. Magness; John Hatfield, husband of her sister Elizabeth; Vincent Nash, husband of her sister Catherine. All of these families settled within a short distance of each other.

It was the habit of that day, for newspapers to publish a list of unclaimed letters which could be collected at the local post office. July 9, 1836 there appeared an item in the "Indiana Free Press" that as of June 30 there was a letter in the South Bend Post Office for Perry G. Magness and another for Sarah Mann. The same notice appeared August 9, 1836. In the January 10, 1837 issue of the same paper there was a notice that as of December 31, 1836, there was a letter waiting for James A. Mann. This same notice appeared February 7, 14, and 21.

1836, August 18. Timothy Green and Martha his wife of Berrien Co., Mich., sold to James A. Mann of St. Joseph Co., Ind. for \$100, the following land in the present Three Oaks Township, containing 80 acres more or less: the south half of the north east fourth of section 24, town 8 south, range 20 west.

1836, October 25. Deed dated August 18, 1836 was recorded in the court house at Berrien Springs, Mich.



It was near here that James Mann operated one of the first saw mills in southwestern Michigan. I have been unable to place its location, but believe it was in the southwest corner of the present Galien Township. It may be that it was on the property which I will describe here next.

1839. On the tax list for Weesaw Township, Berrien County, Mich., for 1839 he appears as the owner of the east half of the northwest fourth of section 19, town 8 south, range 19 west, containing 80 acres. He is listed with a real estate value of \$200 and no personal estate. The tax is \$1.80 and is not marked paid. This land is in the present Galien Township. In the 1840 tax list we have the same description of property, but now the real estate value is \$100; the tax is \$1.40, and is marked paid in full. There are a number of reasons as to why the value of property would depreciate, but I would like to suggest that its cause was due to timber being cut for a saw mill.

1839, October 22. He and his wife of Berrien Co., Mich., sold to John P. Johnson of Berrien Co., Mich., for \$150, the following land in Hudson Township, LaPorte County, Indiana, containing 40 acres more or less: the south west fourth of the south west fourth of section 9, town 38 north, range 1 west. I have not located the purchase deed and so believe it was bought from the U.S. government Land Office. It is my opinion that the Mann family never occupied this property. This land is across the road and immediately north of the Hinman farm which was occupied by the Martin Mann family about 1901.

1839, December 9. Perry G. Magness allowed \$24.00 to James A. Mann as a debt owed him on the estate of the late William P. G. W. Magness. He had died a bachelor and without issue at New Carlisle, Indiana, July 22, 1839.

James Mann was well known throughout the neighborhood as he had an ability which was in great demand. He was a fiddler. It has been handed down that this was his favorite pastime. This musical ability was handed on to his son Perry, who was playing the fiddle by the age of eight, and to Levi, who was never especially proficient with a musical instrument, but spent many of his spare hours writing music.

From "The Acorn," a newspaper published at Three Oaks, Michigan under date of October 13, 1910 - "When but eight years of age Perry had gained quite a reputation as a musician in his trips along the cow-paths, Indian trails, and other cross country roads to play the drum or violin at social gatherings. At one time when but nine years old, when all was woods and no straight roads, he and his father went to Dishma (Hudson Lake) to play for a gathering, he on the drum and his father on the fife. On the way home the next day they stopped at 'Dry Holler' for a drink of water and to rest. The father suggested that they play a tune and they played Perry's favorite, 'Jefferson's Liberty', just those two there alone in the dense woods to enjoy the music."

"Later the family moved from Three Oaks to Dishma and lived there two years. While there Captain Day was his schoolmaster.



The family moved from there to Rolling Prairie and rented the John Decker farm for five years, and from that place they moved to the east of Rolling Prairie about one hundred rods into the timber."

At this point in the story, the time sequence becomes confused. Some time between October 22, 1839 and August 1, 1842, the Manns moved to Hudson Township, LaPorte Co., Ind. I have not located their residence here but it was apparently in or near the village of Dishma, which eventually became Hudson, and ultimately Hudson Lake.

1842, August 1, Monday. He voted in an election held at Hudson, Hudson Township, LaPorte Co., Ind.

1843. From the tax list of LaPorte Co., Ind. for 1843. There was no James Mann listed in Wills or Kankakee Townships. I looked at this volume about seven years ago, and since that time it has disappeared. At the time I did not think to look for him in Hudson Township. At the present time, the earliest extant tax records for LaPorte Co., Ind., date from 1844.

1843, August 7, Monday. He voted in an election held at Hudson, Hudson Township, LaPorte Co., Ind.

Sometime after August 7, 1843, the family moved to, in, or near the village of Portland (now Rolling Prairie), Kankakee Township, LaPorte Co., Ind.

1844. From the tax list of Kankakee Township for 1844. He is listed with Polls: 1. This means that Kankakee Township was his voting residence. He is listed with no real estate; \$100 personal property; total taxables, \$100. Taxes are: State, .70; Lunatic asylum, .01; county, .80; road, .10; total \$1.61. Marked paid. In the 1844 list for Kankakee Township, John F. Decker is listed without polls as the owner of the west half of the north east fourth of section 15, town 37 north range 2 west, containing 80 acres; also the north part of the south east fourth of same section, containing 25 acres. This land is less than a mile south of Rolling Prairie and is probably the farm the Mann family lived on.

1844, April 4. He and his wife of LaPorte Co., Ind., sold to Ezra Higby of the same place for \$100, the following land in Berrien Co., Mich., containing 40 acres more or less: the south east fourth of the north west fourth of section 14, town 8 south, range 20 west. He may have bought this from the government as I have not located the purchase deed. It is my belief that they never lived on this land which is located in Three Oaks Township.

1845. From the tax list of Kankakee Township for 1845. He is listed with Polls: 1. \$100 personal property. Taxes are: state, .72; county, .72; road, .10; total, \$1.54. Not marked paid. None of the taxes in this volume are marked paid which indicated that those records were kept in the other volume which cannot be found.

1845, October 22. Michael Braid and Susannah his wife of LaPorte Co., Ind., sold to James A. Mann of the same place for \$300, the following property, containing 98 acres more or less,



and located in Wills Township, LaPorte Co.; the south half and 18 acres of the south end of the north east fourth of the south east fourth of section 7, town 37 north, range 1 west. The same date James and Sarah Mann signed a mortgage with Michael Brand in which they agreed to pay \$100. Half of which to be paid on or before October 22, 1846 and the remaining half on or before Oct. 22, 1847.

This is the farm which as late as 1950 was still known as the old Jim Mann place. It was about one and a half miles south of the now extinct village of Boot Jack. The log cabin stood on the highest point of land on the west 40 acres of the farm. Behind the cabin and about half way down the hill was a spring where the family obtained their water. At the foot of the hill, north west of the cabin, is a pond that the spring flowed into. This farm was the last home of James Mann in Indiana.

James Mann is listed on the 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, and 1850 tax lists for this farm. His taxes were paid for all of these years.

1846, August 3, Monday. He voted in an election "at the usual place of voting" in Wills Township, LaPorte Co., Ind.  
 1847, May 27. Deed was recorded in the court house at LaPorte for the property that he purchased October 22, 1845.  
 1847, August 2, Monday. He voted "at usual place of holding election" in Wills Township, LaPorte Co., Ind.  
 1848, June 24. Marriage license was issued at LaPorte for Amos Kellogg and Delila S. Mann.  
 1848, July 2. Amos Kellogg and Delila S. Mann were married in LaPorte Co., Ind., by Joseph C. Barker, Justice of the Peace.

The daughter Delila, who married Amos Kellogg at about the age of fifteen, continued to live with her husband in Wills Township. Amos Kellogg was the son of Harvey, who was the owner and proprietor of a tavern at Boot Jack. Amos was born in Ohio about 1827. They had a son Perry who was born about 1849. In the early 1850's Delila died and is believed to be buried in an unmarked grave in the Wills Township Baptist Cemetery, south west of Boot Jack. Her only child Perry, lived to maturity, and was a member of his uncle Perry Mann's minstrel show. It is believed that the father Amos was remarried.

1850, January 29. Perry Mann married Harriet Mosourri Heckman at the residence of Erasmus Shedd, in New Buffalo Township, Berrien County, Michigan. They were married by the said Erasmus Shedd, a Justice of the Peace. Harriet was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Dodd) Heckman and was born December 15, 1830, just south of Niles, Berrien Co., Mich.

At the time of the 1850 U.S. Census, the family of James Mann consisted of himself, age 47, a farmer born in Penn.; Sarah, age 47, born in North Carolina; Perry M.C., age 22, farmer, born in Ohio; Levi, age 19, farmer, born in Ohio; Harriet, age 19, born in Michigan.



By 1849 the California Gold Rush was on. Apparently resisting the temptation as long as he could, James decided in the spring of 1850 to leave for the gold fields.

Keeping in mind that death might prevent his return, he and his wife disposed of his real estate as follows: All three of the following deeds are dated March 11, 1850 and the residence of all parties is given as LaPorte Co., Ind.

- (1). For \$200 he sold the south west fourth of the south east fourth of section 7, town 37 north, range 1 west to Perry M.C. Mann.
- (2). For \$200 he sold the south east fourth of the south east fourth of section 7, same town and range to Levi Mann.
- (3). For \$80 he sold the 18 acres off the south end of the north east fourth of the south east fourth of section 7, same town and range to Harvey Kellogg.

The last the family every saw of their husband and father was when they stood in front of their cabin in Wills Township and watched him walk down the hill, heading west. A short, middle aged man, carrying his rifle and pack, who joined with a wagon train leaving from Rolling Prairie.

James Mann actually reached California. At a date unknown to me, his son Perry received a letter from him saying that he was in good health and for Perry to "take good care of Mother because I've got all I can do to take care of myself." He wrote that he had a job driving a supply wagon up to a mining camp in the mountains. This was the last that was ever heard.

1851, October 18. Marriage license was issued at LaPorte for Levi Mann and Catherine Ritter.

1851, November 2. Levi Mann and Catherine Ritter were married by J.F. Enos, Justice of the Peace. Catherine was born January 6, 1834 in German Township, St. Joseph Co., Ind., the daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Witter) Ritter. She was an orphan by the age of nine and after that time was raised by her sister Elizabeth who had married Henry Brown and was living just east of the village of Boot Jack.

Children of Levi and Catherine (Ritter) Mann

1. Morgan E., born October 31, 1853
2. Arilda Jane, born May 30, 1855
3. Sarah Malissa, born November 29, 1856, died January 22, 1857
4. William Arthur, born March 2, 1858
5. Levi Martin, born February 3, 1861
6. Albert Perry, born February 4, 1863
7. James Henry, born February 4, 1865

Catherine (Ritter) Mann died November 24, 1867. May 19, 1868 Dr. Levi Mann married Sarah Ann Highley. They had:

8. Harvey E., born April 7, 1871, died May 21, 1872.
9. Mary E., born August 16, 1872, died August 21, 1872.
10. Asberry W., born May 14, 1874, died August 30, 1874.
11. Ellsworth Franklin, born January 14, 1876.



Sarah Magness, wife of James A. Mann, continued to live with her son Perry. In later years she lived with her son Levi and died at his home March 24, 1868. She is buried in a little neighborhood cemetery about a half mile west of the home she and her husband moved to in Michigan in 1836.

Dr. Levi Mann, died October 23, 1888 at his home in Galien, Michigan. He is buried with both of his wives in the Galien cemetery.

Martin Levi, son of Dr. Levi and Catherine (Ritter) Mann, was born February 3, 1861 on the east shore of Hudson Lake, Indiana. He was married November 22, 1885 to Millicent Irene Lyon, daughter of Melvin Joshua and Nancy Jane (Case) Lyon. He died March 29, 1939. She was born February 5, 1867 and died January 3, 1935.

Children of Martin Levi and Millicent Irene (Lyon) Mann.

1. George Levi, b. September 11, 1886, d. November 20, 1943.
2. Melvin Carl, b. December 13, 1889.
3. Delbert Martin, b. September 18, 1892.
4. Arthur Harlan, b. June 30, 1897.
5. Harold William, b. September 2, 1899.
6. Marvin Perry, b. December 27, 1904.
7. Jerry Morgan, b. June 20, 1907.

Jacob Ritter, son of John and Eva (Miller) Ritter, born about 1789 in Franklin County, Virginia; married June 15, 1815 in Preble Co., Ohio to Sarah Witter; died December 10, 1838 in St. Joseph Co., Ind.; buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, German Township, St. Joseph Co., Ind.

Sarah Witter, daughter of Christopher and Mary (Ulery) Witter, born May 9, 1795 in Pennsylvania; married first to Jacob Ritter and second November 3, 1840 to Samuel Kingery in Union Co., Ind.; died July 3, 1843; buried next to her father on the Witter homestead in Union Co., Ind.

Their children: (not necessarily in order of birth).

1. Elizabeth, b. April 26, 1816, m. Henry Brown, d. May 2, 1877.
2. Eva, died young, probably in Preble or Butler Co., Ohio.
3. John, b. about 1819, accidentally killed April 11, 1840.
4. Mary, b. Oct. 16, 1820, m. Andrew Wagner & Michael Augustine.
5. Samuel, b. January 28, 1823, m. Sally Jones, d. Dec. 24, 1895.
6. Abraham, b. m. Elizabeth Mikesell.
7. Joseph, b. about 1827, d. May 15, 1838.
8. Jacob, m. Mary Shaw, d. 1862 of disease in Civil War.
9. George W., b. Oct. 11, 1831, m. Lucinda Huff, d. July 26, 1863.
10. Catherine, b. January 6, 1834, m. Levi Mann, d. Nov. 24, 1867.
11. Sarah, b. about 1835, m. Michael Cranmer, d. Jan. 12, 1880.
12. Lydia, b. m. George Swank.

2. 1911-1912 - 1913-1914  
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1916-1917 - 1917-1918  
1918-1919 - 1919-1920

1920-1921 - 1921-1922  
1922-1923 - 1923-1924

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